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CEOs gain insight at Leadership Summit

Industry captains shared insights and views on innovation and ICT-related topics with CEOs at the two-day Pikom Leadership Summit 2011 in October.

Some 200 CEOs from the ICT, finance and telco industries and the government sector participated in the conference that was jointly organised by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (Mosti) and Pikom, the National ICT Association of Malaysia.

This year's Leadership Summit carried the theme "Transcending Into High Value" and was one of the highlights of National ICT Month (NIM) 2011.

This was the third consecutive year that the Leadership Summit was held, underscoring its importance as a platform for knowledge sharing and networking among participants.

International speakers at the summit included prominent names such as Chris Whitney, HP Labs and Dr John Gage. Local speakers were Mimos Bhd's Datuk Abdul Wahab, Pemandu's Dr Fadhlullah Suhaimi Abdul Malek, IBM Malaysia's Wang Jack Jong and REDtone Telecommunications Sdn Bhd's CEO Lau Bik Soon.

"The Leadership Summit demonstrates Pikom's commitment to creating opportunities for ICT industry leaders and company heads to interface with the aim of helping the latter transform their business. This is where CEOs get to learn about the latest business and technology trends shaping the industry.

"This year's summit will focus on numerous current trends in the ICT industry and its importance to businesses, especially SMEs, as an effective and efficient tool to expand one's market to a worldwide audience. Topics that will be covered include, among others, social media, e-commerce, cloud computing and green IT," said Datuk Wei Chuan Beng, Pikom chairman, at the opening of the Leadership Summit [Note: Wei was Pikom chairman at the time of the event in late October, and is now immediate past chairman].

Wei added that companies, especially SMEs, in the country need to embrace new opportunities provided by ICT if they want to remain competitive in the global marketplace. "Previously, many technologies were not available to these modest enterprises or were priced too high for their budget, but it is different now," he said, citing cloud computing as an example where employees could access the same ICT

infrastructure wherever they are so long as they are connected to the Internet.

The topics covered during the two-day conference were "High Value Through Innovation", "Research Driving Innovation Economy", "Communications, Content And Infrastructure — The Keys To A Connected Malaysia", "Education Driving The Innovation Agenda", "Bridging The Gap Between Technology Initiatives And Business Imperatives" and "Content Driving e-Commerce".

There were also discussions on what makes for successful vendor-user relationships, cloud computing, green IT and e-commerce, which has now become a big business in the country.

The *ICT Strategic Review 2011/2012*, an annual publication on the nation's ICT landscape, was also unveiled during the summit. It features topics such as growth through ICT enabled innovation, the value of analytics, the economics of cloud computing, cyber-threat issues and the state of Malaysia's outsourcing industry.

Apart from the Leadership Summit 2011, other events that took place during NIM 2011 were the Smart Sourcing Summit 2011 on Oct 19 and 20, the popular Pikom PC Fair, the World Cyber Games Malaysia 2011 and the Pikom Charity Run. **E**



Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Maximus Ongkili launches the Pikom Leadership Summit 2011 by placing his hand on the screen. On his left is Wei and behind him is Mimos' Wahab.